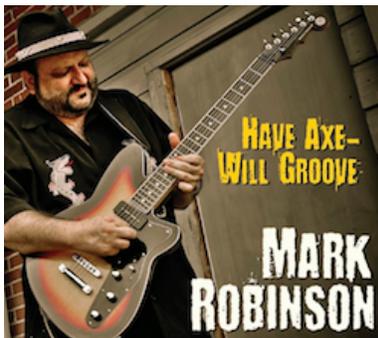


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Nashville Blues Society Nominates Mark Robinson's *Have Axe - Will Groove* for International Blues Challenge "Best Self-Produced CD"

*Album Among 73 International Entries;
Winner Will Be Announced at the IBCs in Memphis, January 2014*

[NASHVILLE, TN - November 5, 2013] *Have Axe - Will Groove*, the latest CD by Nashville blues-rock guitar slinger [Mark Robinson](#), has been selected by the [Nashville Blues Society](#) as its entry in the 2014 International Blues Challenge for [Best Self-Produced CD](#), an award established by [The Blues Foundation](#) to recognize excellence in independent Blues recordings. More than 70 Blues Societies from around the world will be represented in the competition; the winner will be announced at the IBCs in Memphis, January 25, 2014.

It's been quite a year for Mark Robinson. Not only did *Have Axe - Will Groove* release to critical acclaim, Robinson himself was voted "Best Roots/Americana Guitar Player" in *The Alternate Root Magazine's* 2013 Readers' Choice Awards. He and the band have been gigging in support of the new album since it came out last February on Blind Chihuahua Records. Robinson's debut album, *Quit Your Job - Play Guitar* (also on Blind Chihuahua), ignited like a fireworks blast and was named to several "Best of 2010" blues and blues-rock lists.

"It's a real honor for me and *Have Axe - Will Groove* to be the Nashville Blues Society's standard-bearer in the competition for the best self-produced CD at the IBCs," said Robinson, who produced the album. "But as most anyone who has ever put out an album knows, it's a real collaborative effort, from the photos and CD design to the mastering and manufacturing ... and of course, the music. The songwriters and players and singers and engineers are all integral to the final product. No man is an island, and neither is *Have Axe - Will Groove*. It owes its great reception by fans and critics to all the team, and especially to the album's associate producer, Daniel Seymour—who also helped engineer and who played bass on all the tracks."

The eleven tracks were recorded at Guido's Studio South in Nashville, with Robinson on lead vocals and guitars (heavy on his Reverend Jetstream 290, a Ron Volbrecht-custom-made Strat, and a Galveston Electric Dobro), Seymour on bass, and Paul Griffith on drums and percussion (with Justin Amaral on drums for "Lonely Avenue"). Joining that core group for individual songs (complete track listings [here](#)) were Michael Webb on Hammond organ, Randy Handley on piano, Ben Graves on saxophone, Roguie Ray LaMontagne and TJ Klay on harmonica, and Vickie Carrico and Jonnell Mosser on backup vocals. The CD was engineered by Jim Burnett, along with Robinson and Seymour, mastered by Paul Mahern, and manufactured by Disc Makers. The photographs were taken by Gregg Roth, and the album package was designed by Alicia Adkerson. A list of the gear used in the recording can be downloaded [here](#).

Eight of the songs are originals written or co-written (with Mike Cullison and Dave Duncan) by Robinson. The other three are by some of Robinson's favorite songwriters: Davis Raines and Michael Conner Rogers, Slats Klug, and Doc Pomus. "The songs on *Have Axe - Will Groove*," says Robinson, "are strong and fit together well, and they all say something about my life—whether they're inspired by things that happened to me or that I was reflecting on, or by the music and the experiences that have guided me along the way playing blues, rock, jazz, or country. Recording them with some of the finest musicians in Nashville was a thrill, and I'm really glad that other folks think it's a pretty good record, too."



ABOUT THE BLUES FOUNDATION'S INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE

"The Blues Foundation is Memphis-based, but world-renowned as THE organization dedicated to preserving our blues music history, celebrating recording and performance excellence, supporting blues education and ensuring the future of this uniquely American art form. Founded in 1980, The Blues Foundation has 4500 individual members and 200 affiliated local blues societies representing another 50,000 fans and professionals around the world. Its signature honors and events--the Blues Music Awards, Blues Hall of Fame, International Blues Challenge and Keeping the Blues Alive Awards--make it the international center of blues music. . . . For thirty-four years, The Blues Foundation has celebrated and recognized established blues artists through the Blues Music Awards. For twenty-nine years, The Blues Foundation has encouraged future blues performers through the International Blues Challenge. ***The Best Self-Produced CD*** was established in 2005 to recognize excellence in independent Blues recordings." From the Blues Foundation; more at Blues.org.



ABOUT THE NASHVILLE BLUES SOCIETY

NBS President Kathy Bolmer introduced the new blues society to Music City in 2009 with a letter beginning: "We are a Blues Society that is passionate about our mission to promote, preserve, support and advance the tradition and future of blues music. We believe the experience of enjoying blues live and via recordings is tremendously rewarding and helps keep us in touch with the essence of the human heart and spirit." Since then, the Nashville Blues Society has grown to more than 400 members and sponsors concerts and educational events throughout the year. Learn more about the Nashville Blues Society and its programs at NashvilleBluesSociety.org.

MARK ROBINSON / Have Axe - Will Groove (Blind Chihuahua, 2013)

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